

1968 No. 2050

**REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES,  
ETC.**
**ENGLAND AND WALES**
**The Birth Certificate (Shortened Form) Regulations 1968**
*Made* - - - 18th December 1968

*Coming into Operation* 1st April 1969

**ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS**

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The Registrar General, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 33 of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953(a), and section 39 of that Act as extended by section 5(2) of the Foundling Hospital Act 1953(b), and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, with the approval of the Secretary of State for Social Services, hereby makes the following regulations:—

*Title and commencement*

1. These regulations may be cited as the Birth Certificate (Shortened Form) Regulations 1968 and shall come into operation on 1st April 1969.

*Interpretation*

2.—(1) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

“short certificate of birth” means a certificate of birth the form of which is prescribed by regulation 4 ;

“registered person” means a person in respect of whose birth an application for a short certificate of birth is made and whose birth is registered or recorded in any register or record in the custody of the Registrar General ;

“the entry” in relation to a registered person means the entry relating to him in any such register or record as aforesaid ;

“adopted” means adopted under the Adoption Act 1968(c), the Adoption Act 1958(d), or any enactment repealed by the latter Act.

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(a) 1953 c. 20.  
(c) 1968 c. 53.

(b) 1953 c. xxxvi.  
(d) 7 & 8 Eliz. 2. c. 5.

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(a), shall apply to the interpretation of these regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament and as if these regulations and the regulations hereby revoked were Acts of Parliament.

*Application for short certificate of birth*

3. For the purposes of section 33 of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953 (which relates to short certificates of birth), the particulars to be furnished to the Registrar General on an application for a short certificate of birth (other than a certificate issued under section 5 of the Foundling Hospital Act 1953), shall be the following particulars relating to the registered person—

- (a) where the registered person has been adopted and the certificate is to be in respect of him as an adopted person—
  - (i) his name and surname ;
  - (ii) the date of his birth ;
  - (iii) the name and surname of his adopter or, as the case may be, his adopters ; and
  - (iv) the date upon which, and the name of the court by which, the adoption order was made ;
- (b) in any other case—
  - (i) the name and surname of the registered person ;
  - (ii) the date of his birth ;
  - (iii) the name and surname of his father ;
  - (iv) the name, surname and maiden surname of his mother ; and
  - (v) the place of his birth or the place at which his birth was registered :

Provided that the Registrar General may dispense with the furnishing of any of the said particulars which in his opinion it is not reasonably practicable for the applicant to furnish.

*Form of short certificate of birth*

4. The form of short certificate of birth to be issued by the Registrar General under section 33 of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953, or under section 5 of the Foundling Hospital Act 1953, shall be the form set out in the Schedule to these regulations.

*Compilation of short certificate of birth*

5. A short certificate of birth issued by the Registrar General under the enactments mentioned in the last preceding regulation shall be compiled in accordance with, and shall contain the particulars required by, regulations 6 to 9.

*Entry of name and surname*

6.—(1) In a short certificate of birth issued under section 5 of the Foundling Hospital Act 1953, opposite the words "Name and Surname" there shall be entered the name and surname given to the registered person on his admission to the Foundling Hospital.

(2) In a short certificate of birth issued under section 33 of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953, opposite the words "Name and Surname" there shall be entered—

- (a) where the name and surname of the registered person are recorded as such in the entry, that name and surname (or, if there is more than one such surname, such one as the applicant may request);
- (b) where the name but not the surname of the registered person is recorded as such in the entry, that name and immediately thereafter—
  - (i) if the entry contains a surname which appears from the entry to have been used by his father or mother at or after the date of birth, that surname (or, if there is more than one such surname, such one as the applicant may request);
  - (ii) if the entry contains a surname of his adopter or adopters, and the applicant so requests, that surname (or, if there is more than one such surname, such one as the applicant may request).

#### *Entry of sex*

7. Opposite the word "Sex" there shall be entered such particulars thereof as are contained in the entry.

#### *Entry of date of birth*

8. Opposite the words "Date of Birth" there shall be entered the date of birth recorded in the entry :

Provided that, if no date of birth is recorded in the entry, there shall be entered such date, (if any), as may appear to the Registrar General from the information recorded in the entry to be the probable date of birth.

#### *Entry of place of birth*

9.—(1) In a short certificate of birth issued under section 5 of the Foundling Hospital Act 1953, opposite the words "Place of Birth" there shall be entered particulars of the country of birth of the registered person.

(2) In a short certificate of birth issued under section 33 of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953, opposite the words "Place of Birth" there shall be entered such, (if any), of the following particulars as may be appropriate—

- (a) where the register or other record containing the entry includes particulars of the registration district and sub-district in which the registered person's birth occurred or in which the birth is treated under any enactment as having occurred, the name of that registration district and sub-district ;
- (b) where the registered person's birth is recorded as having occurred on a British ship, the words "At Sea" followed by the name of the ship on which the birth occurred ;
- (c) where the registered person's birth is recorded as having occurred in an aircraft, the words "In an aircraft" followed by the particulars as to place of birth in the entry ;
- (d) in any other case where the entry contains particulars as to the place of the registered person's birth, those particulars ;
- (e) where the entry contains no particulars as to the place of the registered person's birth, such particulars, (if any), as to the country of birth of the registered person as the Registrar General is satisfied can be obtained from any register or record in his custody.

*Revocation of existing regulations*

10. The Birth Certificate (Shortened Form) Regulations 1959(a), are hereby revoked, but without prejudice to anything duly done or suffered or to any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued or incurred under any of those regulations.

## SCHEDULE

## FORM OF SHORT CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH FOR ISSUE BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL

Name and Surname .. ..	
Sex .. .. .	
Date of Birth .. .. .	
Place of Birth .. .. .	

Certified to have been compiled from records in the custody of the Registrar General. Given at the General Register Office, Somerset House, London, under the Seal of the said Office, the            day of            19   .

Given under my hand on 17th December 1968.

*Michael Reed,*  
Registrar General.

I approve.

*R. H. S. Crossman,*  
Secretary of State for Social Services.

18th December 1968.

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)*

These Regulations prescribe the form of short certificates of birth to be issued by the Registrar General (regulation 4 and Schedule); the particulars to be furnished by applicants for such certificates (regulation 3); and the manner in which the certificates are to be compiled (regulations 5 to 9).

The form of certificate and the particulars to be furnished remain as prescribed in the Birth Certificate (Shortened Form) Regulations 1959 (which are revoked by regulation 10); but a number of minor variations are made in the prescribed manner of compilation, largely because of changes to be made in the content and format of birth registers.

The new form of birth register will come into use on 1st April 1969 and these regulations accordingly take effect from that date (regulation 1).